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checking for messages from said at least one HVAC device;  
transferring said messages from said at least one HVAC device to said  
server; and  
sending an alarm message from said server to said entry device when an  
alarm message is received from said at least one HVAC device.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Added) The system of claim 1, wherein status  
information is stored in a first database and said password and user's name  
information is stored in a second database.

18. (Previously Added) The system of claim 12, wherein status  
information is stored in a first database and said password and user's name  
information is stored in a second database.

#### REMARKS

The above-captioned patent application has been carefully reviewed in light  
of the Office Action to which this Amendment is responsive.

Claims 1-3, 6-14, 17 and 18 are currently pending in the above-captioned  
application. The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims under 35 USC  
103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandelman (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,782) in view  
of Levi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,667). Applicants herein respectfully traverse  
the above rejection.

In order to maintain a *prima facie* obviousness rejection under the Statute,  
each and every claimed limitation must be found or suggested, either singly or in  
combination, in the cited prior art. Those limitations that are not found or suggested  
must be notoriously well known in the field to one of sufficient skill. Moreover,



there must be a motivation to combine the references at the time of the invention that is found in the prior art as a whole. It is axiomatic that the combination cannot be made from hindsight; that is, each reference should be read in toto and a combination should not be made from a piecemeal combination of features from references simply using advance knowledge of the invention. For example, the combination cannot be made if it affects the overall teachings of the references, for example, rendering either inoperative. A consideration as to why the entirety of the references should be considered and must be factored into any such obviousness rejection is whether there are teachings against such a combination.

Turning to the cited prior art, Sandleman et al describes a bi-directional message delivery system for monitoring remote equipment, such as heating and air conditioning equipment. Information is obtained from a series of sensors that are sent to an interface unit of a HVAC device. The interface unit includes a logic controller that performs Boolean operations on the sensed data and forwards the data to the server. If the server determines that an exceptional condition exists, a message is then transmitted to a user informing the user of the exceptional condition. Other messages of a non-exceptional nature can also be sent to the user based on the data that is being sent to the server.

This reference does not include certain essentially claimed features of the present invention. As noted by the Examiner in the present Action, Sandleman et al., does not teach a system that includes or remotely suggests any type of user specific password protection features.

Levi et al., describes a system in which monitoring services can be contracted for with regard to a plurality of devices. In this system, a user contracts for services from an operations center. This contract can be made using a user identification number and a user verification scheme (a password). Accounts can be stored in the database of the operations center. Upon contracting, the operations center then provides an agent that is deployed to the device or devices that the user has registered for monitoring. Preferably, the agent is a file that is downloadable



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through a server that is installed on the device(s) and actually monitors the device. The agent tracks various operating parameters and generates alerts when an exceptional condition is realized. A listener monitors a number of agents at the operations center and can receive alerts that are generated. The listener then contacts the user when the alert is received.

It is essential to point out that the agent, however, merely transmits outgoing messages concerning the device at predetermined intervals but cannot provide messages on demand from the user. That is to say, the Levi system is unidirectional in terms of communication/communication access. As noted therein, the agent provides "no support for receiving inbound information or connections"...see col 14, line 26-29. The reason for providing only a unidirectional system, as noted by the patentee, is to provide greater security for a monitored device. See col 14, lines 29-32. Additional advantages for providing a unidirectional system and not using a bi-directional system are discussed at col 19, lines 8-25 et seq. Levi makes it clear that the inventive concepts of his invention rely on the unidirectional nature of the communication link between the agent, the listener and the user and that a bi-directional system, like that of Sandleman, is disfavored.

Applicants therefore disagree that the above cited references can be combined as opined by the Examiner without taking into account that Levi teaches against such a combination. Levi clearly advocates use of its password verification features for only in a unidirectional system. Therefore, looking at the references in their entirety for their overall teaching, a combination as opined by the Examiner cannot be supported and therefore a prima facie obviousness rejection cannot be made under the Statute. Withdrawal of same is therefore respectfully requested as well as reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants have amended the title to comport to the filing receipt and formal papers. No new matter has been amended.



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In summary, it is believed the above-captioned patent application is now in a condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

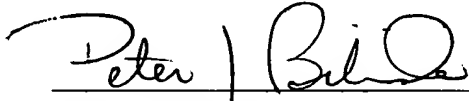
If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned application, he is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants believe that no fees are due on account of the submission of this paper. However, if Applicants are incorrect and fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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